The Expert Group is yet to submit its final report. The interim Executive Summary is under examination by a Committee of officers of the Railway Board. Final decision on the report will be taken after receipt of the final report of the Expert Group.

**Central Reservation System**

739. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Reservation System (CRS) went on the blink in the first week of May, 2001, and such a collapse can re-occur any time;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the system is out-dated and needs re-vamping immediately as there is no back-up or a bail-out to deal with such a situation;

(d) what steps are being taken to change the system; and

(e) by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) It is true that there was a major breakdown of the Passenger Reservation System at Delhi on 7.5.2001. A procedure to avoid recurrence of all perceivable failures is already in place.

(b) Due to very heavy bookings compression of one of the important file became essential. This resulted is slow response to the reservation activity. System was restored by shutting it down and restarting after accounting reconciliation and recovery of about 700 terminals.

(c) Yes Sir, the system needs augmentation.

(d) The exercise for replacement / augmenting of existing systems is underway and is in final stages.

(e) The work of replacement of the systems is likely to be completed by 31.12.01 on all Railways.